

# *Chapter 6*

## *Status of DoD Efforts to Implement the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC)*

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### **6.1 INTRODUCTION**

The Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) was opened for signature on January 13, 1993. The Convention entered into force on April 29, 1997. As of 12 November 1998, 121 countries, including the United States, had signed and ratified the CWC. Another 48 countries have signed but not ratified.

### **6.2 DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CWC**

Since the CWC entered into force, DoD has hosted more than 40 visits and inspections at chemical weapons storage, former production, and destruction facilities. The Army, (the Service most directly impacted by CWC implementation activities), and OSIA (now part of DoD's Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA)) continue to host and escort Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) Technical Secretariat inspectors who conduct both continuous monitoring at DoD CW destruction facilities and systematic inspections at DoD CW storage and former production facilities.

The Department of Defense conducts a Chemical Weapons Agreements Implementation Working Group (CWIWG) to implement the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). Through regularly recurring meetings, representatives of the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD), the Joint Staff, the Military Departments, the Military Services, and DoD agencies and activities coordinate planning efforts to ensure proper implementation of the CWC. Formal meetings of the CWIWG are scheduled approximately monthly and small group meetings are held as needed to address specific requirements in support of the CWIWG. A Compliance Review Group (CRG) was established within DoD to meet as needed to address CWC compliance concerns, should they arise.

OSD, the Joint Staff, the Military Services, and DTRA provide technical experts to support activity at the U.S. Delegation to the OPCW in The Hague, The Netherlands. The OPCW is charged with overseeing worldwide implementation of the CWC.

The Army was tasked to destroy all chemical warfare materiel under the Program Manager for Chemical Demilitarization (PMCD). PMCD includes programs for unitary stockpile destruction, destruction of bulk agent by alternative technologies (non-incineration), and destruction of other chemical warfare materiel and former CW production facilities. There is a separate non-PMCD program to demonstrate alternative technologies to destroy assembled

CW munitions. DoD and the Army coordinate closely to ensure that these programs are compliant with CWC provisions.

### **6.3 SAFETY ORIENTATION FOR INSPECTORS**

OPCW inspectors who conduct continuous monitoring at U.S. chemical weapons demilitarization facilities have attended a 32-hour safety orientation which is broken down into two sections. One section is a 24-hour hazardous waste operations and emergency response (HAZWOPR) course which is a U.S. Government requirement of all personnel who must be present on a more than short-term basis at U.S. chemical demilitarization facilities. The second section is an 8-hour demilitarization protective ensemble (DPE) procedures course required only for those inspectors designated by the OPCW Technical Secretariat, whose responsibilities would include the use of such protective equipment. Approximately 200 inspectors have attended HAZWOPR training; some 50 of the 200 inspectors have taken the 8-hour DPE class. The orientation is conducted at the Chemical Demilitarization Training Facility in Edgewood, MD. Annual 8-hour HAZWOPR refresher classes are also required, and are being accomplished.

### **6.4 PREPARATION OF DEFENSE INSTALLATIONS**

The Military Services and DTRA have developed individual implementation and compliance plans to provide guidance for their commands and activities under the CWC.

The Military Services have individually established implementation support offices which participate actively at the DoD CWIWG, provide Service policy direction, and conduct ongoing liaison with their major commands to ensure that all military elements are fully prepared for inspections under the CWC.

The Military Services continue to coordinate actively with DTRA to prepare DoD installations for inspections under the CWC. All defense installations which are subject to declarations under the requirements of the CWC, and many which are subject to challenge inspections even though not declared, have been visited by Military Service representatives and DTRA technical experts. DTRA will continue to support site assistance visits and Army treaty compliance implementation meetings.

All of the Military Services have held exercises to test their preparedness for short-notice CWC challenge inspections. Such exercises involve the active participation of Service, DTRA, and other DoD representatives in the roles they would assume during a real challenge inspection. DoD and the Services have exercised written DoD guidance and procedures to test the operational readiness of personnel and facilities. Commonly, the lead Service responsible for developing an exercise also produces comprehensive lessons-learned to further ensure DoD readiness for challenge inspections. The Services have initiated efforts to ensure that in the case of a challenge inspection affected commands take timely and appropriate measures, based on lessons-learned, to demonstrate compliance while protecting security concerns.

## **6.5 DEFENSE TREATY INSPECTION READINESS PROGRAM**

The Defense Treaty Inspection Readiness Program (DTIRP), for which DTRA is the executive agent, has implemented an extensive outreach program to provide information about the CWC, security countermeasures, facility preparation, to both government and DoD industry. DTIRP provides training and awareness services through such fora as industry seminars, mock inspections, mobile training teams, industry associations, national conventions and symposia. DTIRP speakers participated in more than 70 outreach events during the last fiscal year. DTIRP also publishes various educational products (printed and video) and administers electronic bulletin boards to provide information concerning the CWC to government and industry. DTIRP, in close coordination with the Naval Surface Warfare Center at Indian Head, MD, has also produced and conducted the first Chemical Technology Security Course, to be given annually.

## **6.6 ARTICLE X ASSISTANCE AND OTHER ASSISTANCE**

Under Article X of the CWC, a State Party to the treaty may make an appeal for assistance to the Director-General of the OPCW. In accordance with a condition of U.S. Senate ratification of the CWC, the United States will provide “no assistance...other than medical antidotes and treatment,” which the U.S. Government deems are necessary, to those CWC States Parties that have requested assistance under Article X of the CWC.

Under the CWC, DoD has not provided any chemical weapons detection equipment, or assistance in the safe transportation, storage, and destruction of chemical weapons to other signatory nations. Such assistance, however, is being provided to Russia under DoD’s Cooperative Threat Reduction (CTR) program.

## **6.7 VERIFICATION TECHNOLOGY**

DTRA conducts RDT&E to support U.S. roles in global chemical arms control initiatives by developing technologies and procedures for DoD identified implementation, verification, monitoring and inspection needs as required by chemical weapons arms control agreements. The arms control technology program is directed towards protecting national security interests, improving the effectiveness of verification efforts, assisting the United States to meet legal obligations imposed by treaty provisions, supporting development of U.S. policy, minimizing inspection and implementation costs, and enhancing the safety of treaty inspections.

The current DTRA arms control technology program continues to support DoD’s efforts to implement the CWC by focusing on the following: compliance support/data management; off-site monitoring; non-destructive evaluation; and on-site analysis.

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